U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

DATE: April 30, 2008
SUBJECT: Tidewater Baling Site, Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
FROM: Donald R. Graham, On-Scene Coordinator
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POLREP: One (1) [03/21/08 - 04/30/08]

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	4N
Contract No.:	EP-W-04-054
Delivery Order No.:	057
Response Authority:	CERCLA
ERNS No.:	N/A
CERCLIS No.:	NJD011534708
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
State Notification	NJDEP notified
Action Memo Status:	March 12, 2008
Start Date:	March 13, 2008
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Inactive scrap metal processing facility

B. Site Description

The Tidewater Baling Site is located at 26 St. Charles Street in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. The Site is a former scrap metal processing and baling facility that is currently vacant. The area of the Site is approximately 2.5 acres and is bordered by Conrail to the north, St. Charles Street to the west, and the Ironbound Recreation Center to the south. A number of industrial facilities are located north of the Site. The closest residence is approximately 100 feet from the Site to the west, and several thousand residents are located within a quarter mile of the Site. There are several abandoned structures on the Site in poor condition, as well as remnants of metal structures used in the former baling process. Except for the asphalt and cobble driveway at the entrance to the facility, the majority of the Site is soil covered. Soils in various portions of the Site contain ash, fine metal particles and shavings, and areas with visible petroleum staining.

Historical investigations have revealed elevated levels of heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and PCBs in soils at the Site. In 1989, EPA conducted a removal action to restrict the migration of oily discharges and to limit access to the Site from an adjoining recreational area. More recently, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has conducted an emergency cleanup which included the installation of a fence surrounding the majority of the Site, and the removal of 60 cubic yards of heavily oil-saturated soils and the removal of 12,500 gallons of petroleum from drums and leaking tankers.

On September 25, 2006, the EPA Removal Action Branch (RAB) received a request from the NJDEP to evaluate the Site for a CERCLA removal action. Pursuant to this request, the RAB's Removal Assessment and Enforcement Section conducted a site investigation which culminated in the issuance of a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) on November 14, 2007. The RSE included a Letter of Technical Assistance (LTA) which was prepared by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The LTA concluded "that conditions at the Site represent a public health hazard regarding exposures via trespassing and an indeterminate public health hazard regarding the lead contamination along the sidewalk area of St. Charles Street." Based upon the available information, the RSE determined that "a CERCLA removal action is warranted at the Site to address the potential threats posed to the community surrounding the Site and to the persons that enter onto the Site."

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

The purpose of this removal action is to eliminate the threat of direct contact with lead and PCBs posed to the public and the environment by surface soils (2') at the Site which are contaminated with hazardous substances including lead and PCBs. This removal action was initiated on March 13, 2008, and includes the ongoing excavation and stockpiling of lead and PCB contaminated soils. The excavated areas of the Site are being backfilled with one foot of crushed stone as the excavation progresses. Other activities have included the demolition of two on-site structures (i.e. garage & warehouse), and the removal of equipment, debris and other impediments to the excavation process.

2. Removal Activities to Date

EPA's ERRS contractor was mobilized to the Site on March 13, 2008. Shortly thereafter, ERRS established Site support facilities and implemented Site security to prevent unauthorized entry onto the Site.

ERRS has completed the excavation of surface soils to a depth of two feet along the southern third of the Site which adjoins the Ironbound Recreation Complex (IRC). This portion of the Site was given first priority in order to provide a "separation zone" between on-site activities and the IRC, and to provide for 'clean' access to the Site by off-site vehicles during the transportation and disposal (T&D) phase of the removal action. To date, approximately 3,300 tons of a total estimated 11,000 tons of soil have been stockpiled pending shipment to an off-site disposal facility. The excavated area has been backfilled to a depth of one foot with crushed stone.

Prior to initiating excavation activities at the Site, EPA implemented a dust control program to eliminate the potential for the off-site migration of contaminants to the adjoining IRC and surrounding community. This program included the installation of wind screening material along the southern perimeter of the Site adjoining the IRC, the ongoing application of water to work areas during excavation and demolition activities, and the implementation of a perimeter air monitoring program by EPA's Removal Support Team (RST).

RST's collection of air samples for total particulate matter and lead began on March 20, 2008. These activities were undertaken prior to the commencement of excavation and demolition activities to establish background levels for the Site, and will continue throughout the course of the removal action. Perimeter air monitoring for asbestos was also conducted during the demolition of the garage and warehouse. Asbestos fibers were not detected above the laboratory's detection limit.

B. Planned Removal Activities

Removal activities will focus on tasks associated with the excavation and stockpiling of contaminated surface soils, and backfilling of the excavated areas. The T&D of stockpiled soils is scheduled to begin in early May. The dust control program, including water application and perimeter air monitoring, will be maintained throughout the course of the removal action process.

C. Enforcement

The Executor of the Estate for the PRP has signed an access agreement with EPA authorizing its continued access to the Site to undertake actions authorized by CERCLA, as may be necessary to abate the threat posed to public health, welfare and the environment by the release and threat of release of hazardous substances from the Site. At this time, EPA has not identified a viable PRP to which it could issue an order regarding these response activities.

D. Key Issues

None at this time

V. COST INFORMATION

Project Mitigation Ceiling	$ 2,785,290
Mitigation Contract Costs (as of 4/26/07)	$ 391,774
Remaining Project Ceiling	86%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any cost recovery claim.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Date	Manifest Type	Waste Stream	Quantity Loaded	Total Quantity	Weight Unit	Transporter	Designated Facility	Treatment
4/4/08	Bill of Lading	Heavy No.1 Steel	2 Trucks	28	tons	Metal Management Northeast, Newark, NJ	N/A	Recycle
4/24/08	Bill of Lading	Light Sheet Steel/ Light Scrap Steel	1 Truck	40	cu yd	Metal Management Northeast, Newark, NJ	N/A	Recycle
4/28/08	Bill of Lading	Light Sheet Steel/ Light Scrap Steel	1 Truck	40	cu yd	Metal Management Northeast, Newark, NJ	N/A	Recycle